

CuthbertPraise! Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter

It's Finally Here—Our Second Newsletter!

"Hey, where's the second CuthbertPraise! Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter?" said an E-mail I received recently. (OK, it was from my Dad, but that still counts! Thanks Dad!) Well, finally, here it is! I hope this second edition finds you healthy and blessed and always eager to offer up more "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" to our wonderful Savior. Although we've been quiet this summer and somewhat off the radar scope,

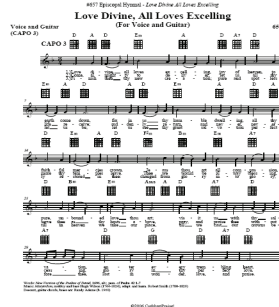
More Details

Adding Guitar to your Liturgy—Part 1 "Why Guitar?"

"Guitar? For a liturgical service? We sing the great hymns of the Church, not praise choruses!" And thus we relegate the warm sounds of the noble guitar to the realm of the Prayer and Praise service and Children's Church. But wait! Why can't we use the guitar in our formal Sunday morning worship? Where is it written, "Thou shalt only use piano or organ to accompany hymn singing"? When the rats chewed through...

More Details

Vol. 1, Issue 2, Sept. 2006

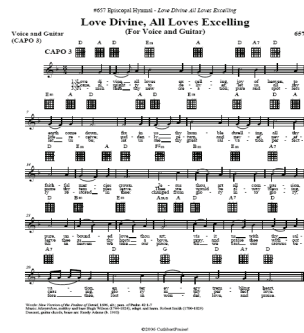


Love Divine, All Loves Excelling This Month's Free Download

Getting the Word Out!

If you like what you see, please help us spread the word. Tell your friends and colleagues what we're up to here at CuthbertPraise.com. We think they'll be glad you did!

This Issue's Free Hymn-of-the-Month: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling — this month's free download.

Well, here it is—our May offering to you. To download your hymn simply click on the link below. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader, available on the Adobe website, but most everyone has that anyway. I recommend using the latest version of Acrobat Reader (7.0) so you can make use of bookmarks and indexing provided in the program. This download of "Love Divine" is the complete arrangement including parts for guitar, bass, timpani, brass ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, quintet, sextet or more!), and various woodwind and string instruments (such as clarinet, oboe, violin and even saxophone). Please tell your friends about this free download! I'd like to give it to as many churches as possible! Let's get more of our church members involved in making a joyful noise unto the LORD!

Questions or Comments? E-Mail us at RandyAdams@CuthbertPraise.com

CuthbertPraise! Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter, Page Two

Adding Guitar (cont'd from Page One)

When the rats chewed through the organ bellows in Franz Gruber's Church in Oberndorf, Austria that historic Christmas Eve in 1820 (or so the story goes), what instrument was there to salvage the worship service and keep the choir on pitch? It was the guitar, meek and lowly, and from that night and ever onward, when people think of Christmas carols, the first tune that comes to mind is the beloved "Silent Night" originally composed for guitar and voice.

So, why guitar? Let me start by quoting **Psalm 33:1-3**: "Good people, cheer GOD! Right-living people sound best when praising. *Use guitars to reinforce your Hallelujahs!* Play His praise on a **grand piano!** Invent your own **new song** to him; give Him a **trumpet fanfare.**" (*The Message*) I LOVE that translation!! Use whatever resources you have available to offer up and "reinforce" praise to our loving and majestic Father (He created and sanctifies all those resources anyway! Read **Acts 10:15**). YOU have someone in your church who plays guitar and wants to offer his or her gift in the Lord's service. YOU have someone in your parish who plays guitar and is sitting on the periphery of that deep and abiding relationship with Jesus and His Church – someone whose life could be dramatically affected by being plugged into ministry and close fellowship with the servant-believers on your music team. Are we *music* ministers, or are we music *ministers*? How has involvement with music ministry affected your walk with the Lord? How has God changed the lives of others in your ministry through service and fellowship?

That said, (I'll now put away my soap box) let's talk about using the guitar in liturgical worship. Adding guitar to your organ or piano accompaniment can bring a certain subtle warmth and familiarity to the sounds of your accompaniment. While the strength and fullness of the organ and/or piano provide a strong and refined backdrop for the singing of hymns, reminding us of the glory and splendor heaven, the acoustic guitar can add a modest human (or "folk") element to the overall experience. Think of it as the leaven (yeast) added to the dough which infects the pure flour with impurity (fungus) that causes the dough to rise and thus makes the bread more palatable for us mere mortals. That's the guitar. God became man to bring man up to God. **2Cor. 5:21** says "He made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." When we hear the guitar, we hear the familiar – the everyday human experience – the sound of our own 20th and 21st century secular voice. When we hear that sound mingled with the lofty sounds of the organ and piano along with the eternal truths expressed in the hymn texts, we have, in effect, experienced the commingling of the sacred and the profane – a picture of God's redemption of man in His Son Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God taking on sinful flesh and living among sinful mankind to draw us into Himself and save us – and we celebrate that commingling and the grace that brought it to pass in the Eucharist. I'm not suggesting here (as some might) that the guitar is "profane," just that it's a more familiar, comfortable, earthy sound than the organ and grand piano. The organ speaks of the grandeur of the King of Heaven. The guitar speaks of the modesty of the Son of Man who ate and drank with sinners. The organ speaks of the awesome power and holiness of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The guitar speaks of the One who worked with His hands and experienced hunger and fatigue. Our Savior Jesus is both High King and servant (see **Phil. 2:6-11**), and we celebrate this fact and reality in our liturgy each week (what a wonderful and glorious mystery!). The use of familiar, everyday sounds (like guitar) along with high and lofty heavenly sounds (like organ and grand piano) can draw a beautiful picture of redemption, God becoming man to ransom us, while at the same time providing a comfortable, common element (the lowly guitar!) that can help draw seekers, younger worshipers and the "un-churched" into a meaningful worship experience. Remember, it's not about us; it's about Jesus Christ and his kingdom and glory. (Where's that soap box again!!!??)

Next time we'll discuss some of the **nuts and bolts** of using guitar effectively in a traditional, liturgical worship service – "**How** the Guitar" – and I'll try not to be so preachy!

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It's Finally Here— (cont'd from page 1)

...(OK, here we are, back on the radar scope!)

...we have been hard at work adding **new parts** to existing hymns in our catalog as well as adding new complete hymn arrangements. Our **new hymns** include #290 *Come Ye Thankful People*, #381 *Thy Strong Word*, #470 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, and **ALL** our existing hymn arrangements have now been updated to include **Brass Ensemble** (quartet, quintet, sextet with substitute parts) and **duet/trio** parts for **brass**, **woodwind** and **string** instruments.

Last spring a few of you issued the cry to **simplify**, and we heard you loud and clear! We've started going back through our guitar parts and weeding out some of those chord changes that are just too quick to get to smoothly and really could be done without. We're also recommending some alternate fingerings here and there that might make the job easier. And we will always make sure those guitar chords fit with the original Episcopal Hymnal piano accompaniments. You say you like those fast guitar chord changes? Don't worry. They're still there in the "full" score with the Descant, Bass and Timpani parts. However, a few of those hymn settings in our hymnal are just... well... kind of "weird" (*you know the ones I'm talking about!*) Well, now we are starting to give those special hymns extra guitar parts with more traditional sounding chords (and more **guitar-friendly** ones, at that!) that can be used when the Episcopal Hymnal piano accompaniment is not being used. These more traditional settings (better suited for small group singing) are being added **in addition** to the original guitar parts (*the ones with the "weird" chords*) that work with the hymnal piano accompaniments! Watch for these new additions as they become available by checking our website www.cuthbertpraise.com or you can send an e-mail to randyadams@cuthbertpraise.com. We are also constantly reviewing and tweaking all the arrangements in our catalog to make them more **accurate**, **useful** and **user-friendly** – after all, we use them every week here at St. Cuthbert's too!

Those of you who have purchased our "**Complete Catalog**" with updates through the end of 2006 will be receiving new CD-ROMs in the mail with all the new additions in just a few weeks.

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